

NEW SOUTH WALES.

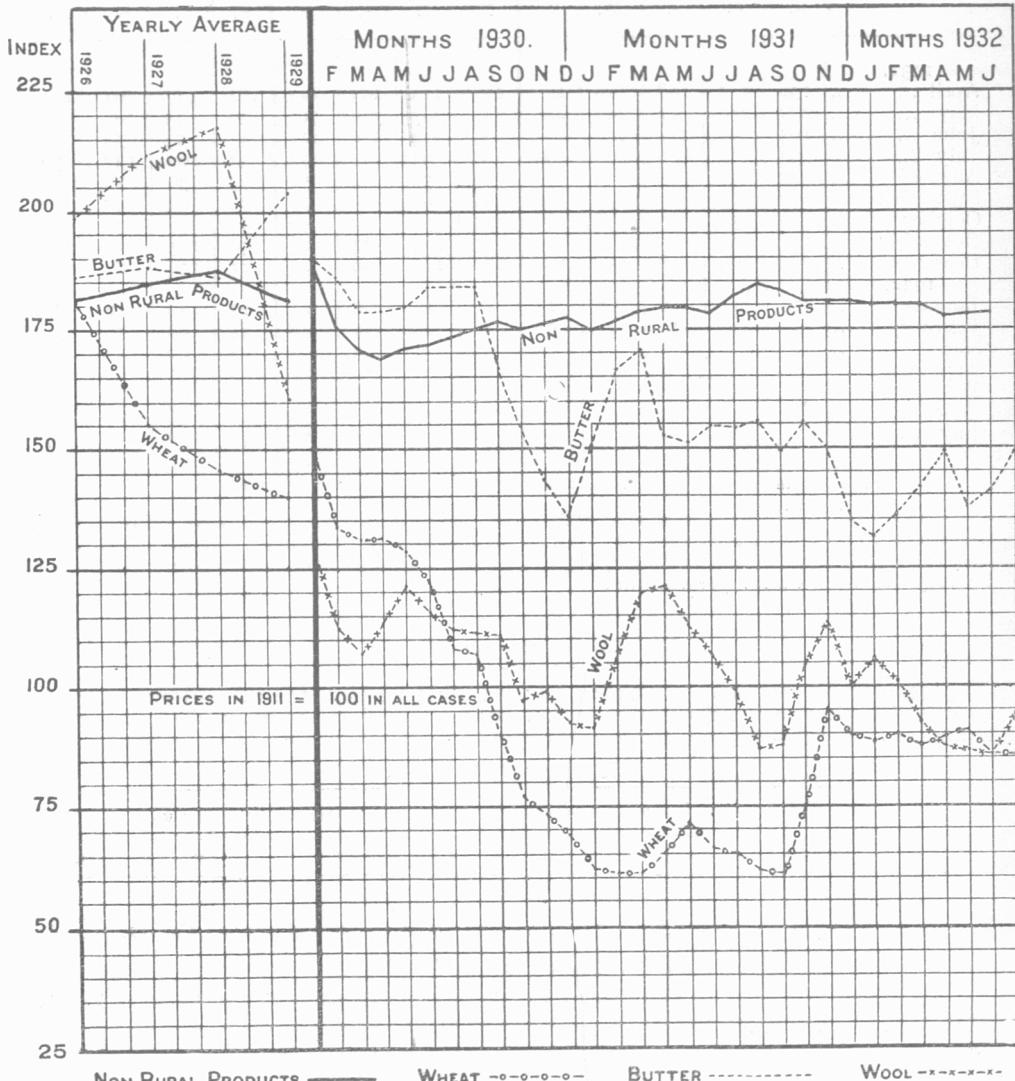
MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

No. 16. August 23, 1932.

Issued by T. Waites, Government Statistician.

INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911 = 100.



All prices are in Australian currency. The indexes for recent months are shown in table 23 on page 11 of this summary. The footnotes to that table apply also to this graph.

*82419-A

[Price, 3d.]

SECTION A.—RAINFALL AND PRODUCTION.

1. RAINFALL—INDEX.

Index showing Weighted Average Ratio of Actual to Normal Rainfall.
(Average rainfall for each month = 100.)

Month.	Sheep Districts.					Wheat Districts.				Dairying Districts.			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.
1931.													
April ...	158	222	198	346	210	171	213	207	204	164	347	201	215
May ...	230	289	312	290	280	247	305	329	312	59	93	107	74
June ...	164	169	241	188	193	193	174	256	227	42	59	50	47
July ...	93	103	86	101	94	89	94	88	90	52	102	137	76
August ...	47	33	58	15	43	56	38	54	50	73	30	13	54
September ...	77	69	100	79	82	65	81	100	91	29	53	145	50
October ...	43	37	60	38	46	35	39	51	46	51	37	73	51
November ...	121	104	129	122	119	113	104	134	123	142	115	110	131
December ...	194	164	58	138	135	181	144	60	97	221	132	84	181
1932.													
January ...	38	14	8	2	17	41	11	8	13	23	49	8	28
February ...	34	73	113	223	91	37	66	126	99	44	88	73	59
March ...	85	181	202	103	152	99	191	193	180	15	66	129	43
April ...	151	116	200	153	157	111	132	216	181	108	66	86	94
May ...	61	37	46	130	57	60	36	42	43	96	101	65	93
June ...	45	50	63	43	59	44	51	86	72	52	52	14	47
July ...	77	80	100	74	85	76	76	95	87	44	134	119	77

N.—Northern; S.—Southern; C.—Central; W.—Western; T.—Total, New South Wales.

Good rains fell throughout the State during July, but in most cases were below normal. The southern portion of the State recorded excellent falls early in August, but the North Coast and Tablelands still continue extremely dry. General rains in parts of the wheat districts would be very beneficial at the present time.

2. WOOL.

Receipts of wool into store during July constitute a record, and the outlook as regards volume of production is unusually promising. Prices have risen somewhat since the end of last season. The new season's sales commence in Sydney on 29th August.

SYDNEY WOOL SALES.

Period.	Number of bales sold.			Amount realised for wool sold.		
	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Year ended 30th June ...	1,095,861	1,037,497	1,176,643	£ 14,888,098	£ 11,743,360	£ 12,726,626

Number of Bales Received into Store.

	During Month.	Total for Season to end of Month.
July	24,787 31,672 52,218	24,787 31,672 52,218

Number of Bales in Store Unsold.

31st July	35,758 51,261 100,539
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The course of wool prices is shown in Table 23.

3. WHEAT.

Progress tabulations of the area sown with wheat for 1932-33 indicate an increase of over 20 per cent. on area sown in 1931-32, 3,923,100 acres. Germination and early growth are reported to have been very satisfactory, but late sown crops are inclined to be backward.

WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTED OVERSEAS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES (DIRECT).

Month.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Bushels of Wheat.						
December ...	98,867	2,930,397	3,470,737	14,239	13,922	22,404
January ...	78,592	2,863,173	5,344,553	9,040	11,018	10,212
February ...	17,047	3,555,985	5,307,083	10,738	14,089	20,291
March ...	6,913	7,343,386	3,521,337	12,680	18,196	24,223
April ...	15,753	3,862,418	1,853,165	11,389	17,845	17,046
May ...	109,893	3,026,073	1,305,925	11,428	19,779	21,293
June ...	69,443	3,207,287	263,930	10,304	17,043	10,959
July ...	259,182	3,959,155	611,053	15,708	12,055	19,500

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Month.	Bushels of Wheat (Equivalent).			Value £.		
	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
December ...	776,908	3,593,337	4,537,605	187,388	487,866	737,355
January ...	509,066	3,387,859	5,830,820	122,541	432,109	986,683
February ...	528,378	4,226,878	6,273,300	126,663	447,882	1,013,169
March ...	610,739	8,209,881	4,674,823	135,683	923,968	735,213
April ...	558,079	4,712,172	2,664,881	120,272	525,948	433,343
May ...	654,098	3,967,911	2,319,877	142,820	489,707	373,318
June ...	560,129	4,018,877	785,799	118,291	449,064	120,914
July ...	1,007,206	4,533,184	1,539,648	196,732	474,846	237,894
Total (8 months) ...	5,204,603	36,650,099	28,626,753	1,150,390	4,231,390	4,637,889

The exports overseas for the twelve months ended 30th November, 1931, were equivalent to 43,415,684 bushels of wheat, including 33,836,332 bushels of grain and 201,166 tons of flour, valued in all at £5,013,635.

The exportable surplus in the current season (ending 30th November next) is estimated at upwards of 38,000,000 bushels. Direct oversea exports of wheat and grain in the first eight months of the current season have exceeded 28,000,000 bushels.

4. BUTTER.

The production of butter in factories for year ended 30th June, 1932, constitutes a record being approximately 5 per cent. greater than the previous record year, 1924-25. Dry weather of late has caused a diminution in production but it is still being maintained at a high seasonal level.

Month.	Output of Butter (New South Wales factories).		Butter exported oversea (New South Wales).			
	1931.	1932.	Quantity.	1931.	Value.	1932.
Year ended June 30th ...	109,292	118,448	Thousand lb.	31,389	39,463	£
Total, Jan.-June ...	60,604	61,460		20,049	22,094	£
January ...	9,913	13,879	2,883	7,901	144,211	374,938
February ...	10,662	11,581	3,855	5,092	230,461	245,812
March ...	12,384	9,804	5,437	3,936	313,396	197,188
April ...	10,813	9,999	4,343	1,708	235,051	91,360
May ...	9,128	8,991	2,411	2,550	128,752	118,755
June ...	7,704	7,205	1,120	906	61,667	43,675
July ...	6,590	...	1,245	786	67,366	39,248

5. COAL.

In the absence of monthly records of production, the best available indications of trends in the industry are provided by railway haulings and exports:—

Month.	Coal Hauled by Government Railways.†			Coal Exported from New South Wales.†	
	1928.	1931.	1932.	1931.	1932.
Twelve months ended 30th June	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
January	... 546,533	296,226	325,634	167,139	157,956
February	... 502,801	336,764	370,813	193,638	197,860
March	... 522,006	366,620	385,149	220,832	204,060
April	... 427,279	282,425	377,698	133,669	191,103
May	... 572,078	399,174	386,360	222,633	186,555
June	... 515,271	409,901	396,098	236,301	207,015
July	... 585,437	410,852	410,000*	213,745	198,500*

* Approximate.

† Cargo and bunker, Overseas and Interstate.

‡ Excludes coal used by the Railway Department and coal shipped or used in New South Wales without being hauled over Government railways.

Coal production has been approximately 6 per cent. greater in the first seven months of 1932, than in the corresponding months of 1931. As overseas and interstate trade have not increased there has been an appreciable increase in local demand.

6. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

Tabulations embracing monthly returns from 42 large factories show the following results which afford some indication of trends in the manufacturing industry:—

Month.	Factory Sales.			Employees.			Weekly Salaries and Wages.		
	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Thousands £.									
January	2,553	1,982	1,822	180	135	137	776	542	497
February	2,630	1,993	2,108	179	140	141	769	535	519
March	2,607	1,977	2,273	174	142	144	732	539	535
April	2,351	1,867	2,019	167	140	144	697	531	529
May	2,384	1,929	1,989	162	137	142	667	526	523
June	2,130	1,879	1,823	159	137	139	638	506	501
July	2,312	1,986	...	153	135	...	620	516	...
August	2,071	1,845	...	152	136	...	598	514	...
September	2,131	1,889	...	152	140	...	566	519	...
October	2,208	1,914	...	150	142	...	555	539	...
November	2,204	2,050	...	149	142	...	553	528	...
December	2,222	2,265	...	141	142	...	596	527	...
Total	... 27,803	23,576	...	1,918	1,668	...	7,767	6,322	...

7. BUILDING INDUSTRY. PERMITS TO ERECT NEW BUILDINGS.

	Total Value for Six Months ended 30th June.			Country Municipalities (June Quarter).		Suburbs. (Month of July).	
	City.†	Suburbs.	Country.‡	No.	Value of Buildings.	No.	Value of Buildings.‡
1930	£ * 1,633,875	£ 1,285,145	485	£ 439,217	151	£ 196,299
1931	636,272	283,361	371,718	246	112,390	35
1932	114,181	237,548	309,953	263	122,392	56

* Not available.

† New buildings and additions.

‡ Municipalities and seven Shires adjoining Metropolitan Area.

Figures as to permits to erect new buildings show in advance the trend in the building industry. Comparative figures for previous months, quarters and years, are shown on page 21 of the "New South Wales Statistical Bulletin" for June Quarter, 1932.

SECTION B.—TRADE.

8. VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

To and from New South Wales direct Oversea.

	Month of July.			Year ended 30th June.		
	Imports.	Exports.*	Excess of Exports.*	Imports.	Exports.*	Excess of Exports.*
1930 ...	£ 3,337,033	£ 2,182,771	(—) £ 1,154,262	£ 57,129,636	£ 31,648,881	(—) £ 25,480,755
1931 ...	£ 1,334,575	£ 1,594,636	£ 260,061	£ 26,311,260	£ 30,349,806	£ 4,038,546
1932‡ ...	£ 1,854,648	£ 1,291,298	(—) £ 563,350	£ 18,795,549	£ 32,190,502	£ 13,394,953

(—) Denotes excess of Imports.

§ See notes below.

‡ Subject to revision.

* Excluding gold specie valued at £18,092, £3,132 and £195,456 for the month of July in the years 1930, 1931, and 1932 respectively, and at £4,112,926, £1,041,056 and £2,437,990 in the years ended 30th June, 1930, 1931 and 1932, respectively.

(Australian currency values.)

The values of imports represent the cost f.o.b. port of export plus 10 per cent., and are recorded in English currency. The values of exports are the values in the principal markets of New South Wales, less bonuses on butter, &c., and are recorded in Australian currency. The excess of exports marked § above is consequently overstated. Conversely the excess of imports marked § is understated.

9. WHOLESALE TRADE.

AMOUNT of Recorded Sales (New South Wales) under Sales Tax Act.

Month.	Taxable Goods.	Exempt Goods.	Total.	Month.	Taxable Goods.	Exempt Goods.	Total.
1930.		Million £		1931.		Million £	
October ...	5.07	5.96	11.03	October ...	4.84	5.63	10.47
November ...	5.26	5.74	11.00	November ...	4.80	5.71	10.51
December ...	5.47	6.30	11.77	December ...	4.91	6.56	11.47
1931.				Total, 1931 ...	58.32	63.90	122.22
January ...	4.20	5.13	9.33	1932.			
February ...	4.56	5.15	9.71	January ...	4.53	5.36	9.89
March ...	4.82	4.82	9.64	February ...	4.76	4.76	9.52
April ...	5.27	6.10	11.37	March ...	5.05	4.50	9.55
May ...	5.16	4.65	9.81	April ...	5.39	4.78	10.17
June ...	5.64	5.07	10.71	May ...	5.03	5.14	10.17
July ...	4.63	5.02	9.65	June ...	4.67	4.94	9.61
August ...	4.68	4.42	9.10				
September ...	4.81	5.64	10.45				

The amounts of sales of taxable goods represent the approximate trend of wholesale trade in local and imported secondary products. An increased rate of tax was imposed on 11th July, 1931.

RETAIL TRADE.

Efforts are being made to obtain data as to the volume of retail business,

SECTION C.—TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC.

10. RAILWAYS.

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS REVENUE AND BUSINESS.

The financial results of operations were :—

	Month of June.			Year ended 30th June.		
	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.
1930 ...	£ 1,163,382	£ 1,208,961	(—) £ 45,579	£ 17,826,692	£ 14,962,423	£ 2,864,269
1931 ...	1,086,176	1,276,428	(—) 190,252	15,205,741	12,899,646	2,306,095
1932 ...	1,048,795	1,265,610	(—) 216,815	15,001,022	12,524,232	2,476,790

* Interest and Sinking Fund on loan capital are not included as working expenses.

The amount of interest chargeable against the railways in 1930–31 was £6,790,082, exclusive of £737,633 exchange.

	Month of June.		Year ended 30th June.	
	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.
	thousands.	thousands.	thousands.	thousands.
1930 ...	... 93,059	11,913	1,566,535	147,893
1931 ...	... 93,491	10,591	1,489,880	126,812
1932 ...	... 89,489	11,131	1,479,313	128,359

* Goods (including wayleave) and live stock. Ton-mileage represents the weight times the distance (miles) it was carried.

11. TRAMWAYS.

NEW SOUTH WALES TRAMWAYS.

	Sydney and Suburbs.			Newcastle and Suburbs.		
	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers Carried.	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers Carried.
	£	£		£	£	
Year ended 30th June, 1931 ...	2,894,285	(—) 11,060	253,243,078	164,186	(—) 51,864	13,103,723
Year ended 30th June, 1932 ...	3,117,334	262,885	268,908,596	187,888	(—) 7,195	17,497,845
July ...	221,392	7,276	19,624,627	12,543	(—) 3,335	1,156,986
August ...	209,959	(—) 6,387	18,607,992	12,299	(—) 3,473	1,134,479
September ...	209,059	7,688	18,527,948	12,243	(—) 5,693	1,129,314
October ...	226,287	9,515	20,023,810	14,663	(—) 1,044	1,381,753
November ...	264,651	21,781	23,020,704	15,724	(—) 714	1,493,809
December ...	298,783	47,300	25,981,876	18,996	2,041	1,784,276
January ...	303,428	51,819	24,257,242	17,166	1,687	1,635,351
February ...	271,153	50,992	23,686,060	17,050	2,006	1,551,361
March ...	329,242	82,055	27,503,934	17,005	809	1,587,035
April ...	276,252	26,950	23,489,751	16,848	292	1,567,964
May ...	268,355	27,137	22,683,467	17,144	1,332	1,583,807
June ...	238,773	(—) 63,241	21,501,185	16,207	(—) 1,103	1,491,710

* Interest and Sinking Fund on loan capital are not included as working expenses. The amount of interest chargeable against the tramways in 1930–31 was £455,725, exclusive of exchange. (—) Denotes excess of working expenses over earnings.

Corresponding figures for June, 1931, were :—Metropolitan—Earnings, £227,416; excess of earnings over working expenses, (—) £14,493; Passengers, 19,368,998. Newcastle—Earnings, £13,020; excess of earnings over working expenses, (—) £3,099; Passengers, 1,192,716.

12. MOTOR VEHICLES.

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES (N.S.W.), AS AT VARIOUS DATES.

Class.	30th June—			31st Dec., 1931.	31st Mar., 1932.	31st May, 1932.	30th June, 1932.	31st July, 1932.
	1929.	1930.	1931.					
Cars ...	162,298	169,495	154,096	146,693	144,749	144,151	143,970	144,112
Lorries and Vans ...	41,689	45,309	41,788	39,961	38,698	38,604	38,618	38,759
Cycles ...	30,937	29,410	25,453	23,859	22,964	22,888	22,741	22,696
Buses ...	583	640	588	776	385	372	362	353
Cabs ...	1,300	1,340	1,078	1,091	1,068	1,069	1,070	1,068

Decrease.

	Cars.	Lorries. and Vans.	Cycles.
Three months ended 30th April, 1932 ...	645	808	480
" " 31st July, 1932 ...	366	(—) 92	318

The number of new cars registered during the four weeks ending on the first Tuesday in August, 1932, was 244, compared with 188 and 723 in the corresponding periods of 1931 and 1930 respectively.

SECTION D.—FINANCIAL.

13. SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

Date.	Amount of Deposits.	Date.	Amount of Deposits.
1929—June 30 ...	£ 85,727,514	1931—October 31 ...	£ 72,208,328
1930—June 30 ...	82,465,430	November 30 ...	72,831,264
September 30 ...	78,552,912	December 31 ...	72,503,441
December 31 ...	73,406,775	1932—January 31 ...	72,068,911*
1931—March 31 ...	70,773,167	February 29 ...	71,259,468*
June 30 ...	69,810,769	March 31 ...	70,766,850
July 31 ...	69,506,448	April 30 ...	69,678,291*
August 31 ...	70,373,579	May 31 ...	69,490,437*
September 30 ...	71,448,529		

* Approximate.

14. TRADING BANKS—ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

TOTAL (including Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and including Government Business).

June Quarter	Deposits.	Advances, &c., and Government Securities.	Excess of Advances over Deposits, &c.
	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £
1930†	130,693	151,024	20,331
1931†	121,616	136,353	14,737
1932	111,172	138,639	27,467

† Revised.

15. PRIVATE BUSINESS IN PRIVATE BANKS (N.S.W.).

(Excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and excluding Government Deposits
and Government Securities in Private Trading Banks.)

June Quarter.	Deposits.			Advances, &c.	Excess of Advances over Deposits.	Ratio of Advances to Deposits.
	Bearing Interest (Fixed).	Not Bearing Interest (Current).	Total.			
1930† ...	thousand £ 65,516	thousand £ 40,676	thousand £ 106,192	thousand £ 107,475	thousand £ 1,283	per cent. 101·2
1931† ...	63,520	34,890	98,410	97,360	(—) 1,050	98·9
1932 ...	56,294	34,876	91,170	92,189	1,019	101·1

† Revised.

16. INTER-BANK CLEARINGS (SYDNEY).

(Value of cheques drawn on a Bank other than the Bank in which they were Deposited.)

Month.	1929.	1930.	1931.*	1932.*	1929.	1930.	1931.*	1932.*
Amount—Million £								
January ...	86·2	78·2	67·4	46·7†	1038	990	809	622‡
February ...	88·1	75·5	63·8	47·3†	1047	958	808	617‡
March ...	80·8	83·7	69·9	42·7†	1058	950	807	§
April ...	89·7	68·6	62·4	43·5†	1093	926	811	§
May ...	80·7	76·7	54·0	46·1†	1087	920	768	§
June ...	84·8	71·7	57·1	51·8†	1089	893	741	655‡
July ...	88·8	73·7	48·9	46·8†	1061	895	663	631‡
August ...	84·1	58·4	45·5	...	1078	850	648	...
September ...	78·7	61·7	54·6	...	1073	825	643	...
October ...	89·1	71·5	56·0	...	1057	802	655	...
November ...	85·5	65·8	50·6†	...	1026	806	658‡	...
December ...	88·9	86·8	52·9†	...	1014	803	635‡	...

* Adjusted by elimination of abnormal transactions on account of Governments.

† Unadjusted on account of amalgamation. ‡ Adjusted on account of amalgamation—Subject to revision.

§ State Government banking transactions suspended. Index not ascertainable.

Inter-bank clearings are regarded as an approximate measure of changes in the general volume of business transactions provided they are considered in conjunction with changes in price levels.

The index represents the ratio of each month's clearings to the average for the month concerned during the five years 1926–1930. This average is represented by 1,000 each month. Seasonal fluctuations have thus been eliminated. Casual fluctuations in monthly index numbers have been smoothed out by taking a three months' moving average, that is, the index shown above for each month is the average of the actual index of that month and the preceding two months.

No adjustment has been made for normal growth or change of price levels.

17. REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.).

	Month of July.		Seven Months ended 31st July.	
	Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.	Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.
	£	£	£	£
1930	2,473,593	3,281,917	18,077,005*	23,236,343
1931	1,083,052	1,883,313	7,651,376	13,871,850
1932	1,172,011	657,470	6,250,209	5,156,692

* Approximate.

The amount of consideration of sales for 1931 is approximately 52 per cent., and the amount of mortgages approximately 53 per cent. of the corresponding figures for 1930, and transactions for the first seven months of 1932 were respectively 82 per cent. and 37 per cent. of the amounts for the corresponding months of 1931. This decrease is partly due to a lower level of values.

18. LIENS ON CROPS AND WOOL AND MORTGAGES ON LIVESTOCK.

	Month of July.			Seven Months ended 31st July.		
	Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.	Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1930	442,593	407,799	376,231	3,800,874	2,596,397	2,117,727
1931	409,923	224,663	179,380	4,310,640	2,936,680	1,842,555
1932	353,592	227,567	151,914	3,998,473	1,912,203	1,349,022

The amounts involved in liens amounted to £11,617,449 for the year 1931, compared with £11,154,265 for 1930.

The numbers involved in liens and mortgages were as follow :—

Seven Months ended 31st July.	Number of Crop Liens.	Number of Sheep subject to Liens on Wool.*	Number of Livestock under Mortgage.		
			Sheep.*	Cattle.	Horses.
1930	10,651	7,252,792	4,461,803	58,064	13,491
1931	9,956	8,892,971	6,886,581	81,691	18,109
1932	8,185	7,731,949	7,022,437	89,907	12,369

* In many cases sheep are included under both headings.

19. BANKRUPTCIES.

Sequestrations and Deeds of Arrangement, New South Wales.

Year.	Month of July.		Seven Months ended 31st July.	
	Number.	Liabilities.*	Number.	Liabilities.*
1930	94	£ 243,619	671	£ 1,365,169
1931	110	214,715	852	1,580,052
1932	35	82,069	398	1,041,575

* Gross liabilities before deducting assets.

SECTION E.—GENERAL.

20. UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Middle of Quarter ended—			
	31st March.	30th June.	30th Sept.	31st Dec.
1929 ...	per cent. 9·7	per cent. 10·0	per cent. 12·4	per cent. 13·8
1930 ...	16·3	21·0	23·3	26·3
1931 ...	29·2	30·7	31·6	31·5
1932 ...	31·8	33·2	...	...

The above figures are an estimate by Commonwealth Statistician representing proportion of unemployed members to total membership in unions reporting.

The estimate formerly made by the Director of State Labour Exchange has been discontinued as from end of February.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID AND INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT.

Data are being sought under these headings.

21. STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX (SYDNEY).

The following index of the values of the principal Company shares on Sydney Stock Exchange embraces the ordinary shares of companies (excluding banking companies) whose business is conducted wholly or largely in New South Wales.

The prices of individual shares are unweighted, and the group averages are the means of the average monthly prices per £ of paid-up capital. The aggregate index is the average for the whole of the shares included in the groups with the addition of 24 miscellaneous shares. It represents the ratio of the average prices of ordinary shares to their par values.

Par Value of Shares = 100.

Month.	²³ Manufacturing and Distributing Companies.	¹⁰ Retail Companies.	⁸ Public Utility Companies.	⁵ Pastoral and Finance Companies.	⁵ Insurance Companies.	Total * Companies 75.	³⁴ Active Shares included in foregoing.
1929.							
July ...	178·8	172·9	129·9	158·8	231·6	169·4	168·8
1930.							
July ...	112·5	102·8	109·6	87·9	172·6	112·6	111·2
1931.							
January ...	81·2	66·7	90·8	60·2	134·6	81·4	85·3
February ...	80·8	66·1	90·0	61·2	127·5	80·0	84·8
March ...	82·9	71·5	88·9	80·7	132·1	83·7	90·2
April ...	82·9	71·3	89·1	81·5	137·6	85·1	90·7
May ...	81·7	67·9	86·7	79·8	126·8	82·6	88·5
June ...	78·2	66·5	89·4	78·0	120·0	80·1	85·4
July ...	77·3	65·9	90·8	79·3	119·0	79·5	83·5
August ...	76·1	62·9	89·3	77·6	118·3	77·4	80·6
September ...	72·3	60·2	87·9	75·2	121·3	74·4	77·2
October ...	77·4	64·3	90·6	84·8	129·8	78·9	84·2
November ...	88·0	73·5	95·1	95·9	143·9	87·7	94·4
December ...	92·6	74·5	98·5	95·4	153·7	91·5	98·6
1932.							
January ...	94·2	75·5	110·0	95·2	158·8	93·3	100·9
February ...	92·6	75·3	111·9	92·0	154·5	92·3	99·0
March ...	90·3	73·9	105·1	88·8	148·2	89·5	95·5
April ...	90·0	72·4	104·6	87·5	139·5	87·8	94·4
May ...	91·9	74·8	104·7	89·3	132·3	88·5	95·3
June ...	96·3†	77·8†	109·0	87·3	145·6	92·2	99·4
July† ...	100·4	78·0	112·1	94·9	152·0	95·4	102·1

* Including 24 Miscellaneous Companies.

† Revised.

‡ Subject to revision.

22. CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY.

Index of Monthly Sales of Gas and Electricity (Sydney).
(Based on number of units each equal to 3,412 British Thermal Units.)

Month.	Average, 1929 to 1931.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
January ...	1,000	1,031	1,013	956	929
February ...	1,000	1,044	981	974	949
March ...	1,000	1,018	1,011	971	952
April ...	1,000	1,036	1,004	960	956
May ...	1,000	1,055	1,000	944	951
June ...	1,000	1,035	999	966	987
July ...	1,000	1,052	987	960	967
August ...	1,000	1,061	998	940	...
September ...	1,000	1,085	979	936	...
October ...	1,000	1,093	972	934	...
November ...	1,000	1,093	961	946	...
December ...	1,000	1,043	983	973	...
Average (12 months)	1,000	1,054	991	955	...

23. INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911=100 in all cases.

Date.	Wool.	Wheat.	Butter.	Non-Rural. [§]	All Com-modities.	Average Rates of Exchange.‡		
						Australia on London.	London on New York.	Australia on New York.
1911*	100	100	100	100	100	100	...	...
1929*	162	140	204	184	186	102	100	102
1930*	109	110	173	178	171	106	100	106
1931*	105	70	154	180	155	128	109	140
1931—January	91	62	152	175	154	119	100	119
July	98	64	156	183	155	130	100	130
August	88	62	156	185	154	130	100	130
September	88	61	150	184	154	130	106	138
October	106	75	156	181	153	130	125	163
November	114	96	151	181	156	130	131	170
December	100	92	136	181	156	125	144	180
1932—January	105||	89	132	180	154	125	142	178
February	102||	90	136	180	155	125	141	176
March	93	88	142	180	153	125	134	168
April	88	89	149	178	154	125	130	163
May	87	91	138	178	152	125	132	165
June	86	86	141	178	152	125	133	166
July	94	86	149	178†	152†	125	137	171

* Average for year.

† Subject to revision.

‡ Approximate.

|| Revised.

§ Includes only those (non-rural) primary, manufactured and imported commodities which are included in the index for all commodities. Highly manufactured articles are not included. The individual items are listed on pages 488 and 489 of the "Official Year Book of New South Wales" for 1920.

All prices are in Australian currency.

24. OVERSEA WHOLESALE PRICE LEVELS.

	1931.						1932.				
	Sept.*	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.
Great Britain—											
Board of Trade (1924=100)	59.7	62.8	64.0	63.7	63.7	63.4	63.0	61.6	60.6	59.1	58.8
Economist (1927=100)	65.1	66.8	65.9	65.2	65.4	67.0	63.4†	62.4†	60.5†	58.8†	61.0†
United States—											
Irving Fisher (1926=100)	68.7	68.3	68.3	67.0	65.0	63.7	63.1	62.2	61.0	59.6	59.8||

* Gold standard suspended by Great Britain 21st September, 1931.

† Fortnights ended 6th April, 4th May, 1st June, 29th June, 10th August.

|| Three weeks.

25. PRICES OF METALS.

Average Monthly Spot Prices of Metals (London Exchange, English Currency).

Date.	Silver (Standard).	Lead.	Spelter.	Tin (Standard).	Copper (Standard).
	per oz. s. d.	per ton. £ s. d.	per ton. £ s. d.	per ton. £ s. d.	per ton. £ s. d.
1931.					
September ...	I 2·10	II 19 7	II 16 4	II 7 10	31 11 1
October ...	I 5·15	13 5 0	12 19 7	127 0 10	35 0 1
November ...	I 7·39	14 10 8	14 0 10	132 18 10	35 18 1
December ...	I 8·02	15 5 6	14 11 9	138 19 7	38 6 6
1932.					
January ...	I 7·62	15 2 1	14 12 6	140 5 7	39 10 1
February ...	I 7·57	14 11 4	14 1 7	139 4 8	36 19 8
March ...	I 6·34	12 9 9	12 16 5	129 18 3	33 1 9
April ...	I 4·92	11 7 3	11 16 3	109 0 11	29 19 11
May ...	I 4·87	10 17 1	12 11 2	122 7 6	28 12 0
June ...	I 4·84	9 15 0	11 14 2	114 12 11	26 18 4
July ...	I 4·93	9 19 8	11 15 6	125 19 6	26 2 6
August (1st to 12th) ...	I 5·74	10 9 2	12 16 11	138 8 0	29 4 9

With the depreciation of the English pound as from 21st September prices rose in terms of English currency. During the first half of October prices showed little variation, but from the latter half of that month until the middle of January, 1932, there was a sustained rise followed by a marked recession.

26. SUMMARY.

The following table provides some indication of trends in 1931 and 1932, in respect of the principal activities for which it is possible to indicate general trends by monthly figures:—

Refer to Table No. ...	16	9	6	5	7	10	22	11
Month.	Index of Bank Clearings.	Value of Goods sold at Wholesale.	Value of Goods sold by certain Factories.	Quantity of Coal Hauled by Railways.	Value of City and Suburban Building Permits. (d.)	Number of Passengers Journeys on Railways.	Index of Quantity of Gas and Electricity Consumed.	Tramway Revenue.
1931.								
January ...	809	£ (b) 933	£ (b) 198	tons (a) 296	£ (a) 107	(c) 101	956	£(a) 284
February ...	808	971	199	337	143	98	974	232
March ...	807	964	198	367	464	107	971	254
April ...	811	I,137	187	282	255	100	960	249
May ...	768	981	193	399	82	102	944	246
June ...	741	I,071	188	410	78	106	966	240
July ...	663	965	199	411	84	97	960	234
August ...	648	910	185	312	88	101	940	222
September ...	643	I,045	189	369	42	100	936	221
October ...	655	I,047	191	351	45	98	934	241
November ...	658	I,051	205	350	53	108	946	280
December ...	635	I,147	226	337	31	112	973	318
1932.								
January ...	622	989	182	326	81	103	929	321
February ...	617	952	211	371	69	107	949	288
March ...	...*	955	227	385	129	119	952	346
April ...	...*	I,017	202	378	78	110	956	293
May ...	...*	I,017	199	386	139	116	951	285
June ...	655	961	182	396	78	111	987	255
July ...	631	...	...	410	111	...	967	...

(a) Thousands. (b) Ten thousands. (c) Hundred thousands. (d) New buildings and additions. *Not available.

The general position in regard to primary industries might be gauged by reference to tables 1 to 4, and to the prices shown in the graph on page 1, and in table 23.

NOTICE.

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Acknowledgment is made of the ready help given by numerous private organisations and businesses, and by various Government Departments in providing data for tables contained in this summary.

The figures for the most recent months are, in general, subject to revision.

Bureau of Statistics, 36 Young-street, Sydney.

23rd August, 1932.